

GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1954.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health Madge Hopper, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector George Stenger, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector George Oxley, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks - Mrs. C.E. Raine

Miss W. Oliver.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Gosforth
Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the vital statistics and health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

The district consists of four Wards and has a population of 24,540 concentrated in a relatively small area.

The number of industries within the district is very small, the majority of the inhabitants working in the adjoining City of Newcastle upon Tyne and other parts of Tyneside.

I. VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. There was a decrease of 120 in the Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year home population from 24,660 in 1953, to 24,540, in 1954.

BIRTHS. The total number of births registered in 1954 was 370. The number in the previous years was 371, in 1953, and 361, in 1952.

In 1954, the birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 15.3 per 1,000 population, being similar to that of the country as a whole, which was 15.2 per 1,000 population.

The birth rate (corrected) for the district in 1953 was 14.4 per 1,000 population.

In 1954, the slightly decreased population and only one less birth raised the rate a little.

Eight still births were registered during the year compared with ten in 1953. The still birth rate in 1954 was 21.1, whereas in 1953, it was 20.6 per 1,000 live and still births.

The rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 23.4 per 1,000 live and still births.

The number of illegitimate births showed a sharp decline to 4, in 1954 from 10, in 1953.

DEATHS. The total number of deaths registered during the year was 347, of which 98 occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital.

In 1953, the total number of deaths registered was 356, 110 of which occurred at the hospital.

The general death rate for the Urban District was 13.5 (corrected for age and sex distribution) compared with a rate of 14.1 per 1,000 population (similarly corrected) in 1953. The general death rate for the Country was 11.3 per 1,000 population in 1954.

Due to a change in the Registrar General's method of assigning institutional deaths, on January 1st, 1953, all deaths occurring at the St. Nicholas Hospital were no longer transferable but assigned to this district.

This has increased the general death rate for the district in the last two years but care has been taken when dealing with individual causes of death, later in the report, to separate deaths of residents from hospital deaths.

The number of deaths of residents was 249, in 1954, 246, in 1953 and 227, in 1952.

NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION. The number of births in excess of deaths during the year was 23. In 1953, it was 114 and in 1952, 134. This natural increase of the population of 23 in 1954, is the lowest yet recorded for the district and is in keeping with the figures for the country generally, which showed an excess of births over deaths of 171,334 in 1954. The average excess of births over deaths for the years 1948-52 was 203,016.

INFANT MORTALITY. The death rate of all infants under one year of age showed an unwelcome increase to 35.1 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 25.5 per 1,000 live births.

This rate of 35.1 in 1954 for the Urban District is the largest since 1945, when it was 36.2 per 1,000 births.

In 1954, 13 infant deaths were registered compared with 6, in 1953 and 9, in 1952 and 1951.

The increase was chiefly in the number of neo-natal deaths (i.e., deaths occurring during the first month of life) to 8, in 1954 from 3, in 1953. Analysing the 8 neo-natal deaths, 2 were due to birth conditions, 2 to birth injury, 3 to congenital abnormalities and one to prematurity.

In 1953, all 3 neo-natal deaths were due to prematurity.

Five infant deaths occurred between the end of the first month and the first year of life but all were in the first six months of life. One death was due to prematurity, one to a congenital defect, one to convulsions and whooping cough, and one to Bronchitis and Broncho-pneumonia respectively.

The neo-natal mortality rate for the district in 1954 was 21.6 per 1,000 related births and that for England and Wales was 17.7.

This increase in the number of infant deaths in 1954, particularly of the neo-natal deaths, shows clearly the task that still remains in reducing deaths from congenital and birth causes, although those from infective causes have been reduced to a minimum.

There have been no deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years of age for the last three years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. One maternal death was registered during the year, the maternal causes in this case were secondary to cardiac disease. No maternal deaths were registered in the two preceding years.

The maternal mortality rate for the district was 2.6 and that of the country generally 0.69 per 1,000 total live and still births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH. The total number of deaths (other than those occurring in the St. Nicholas Hospital) registered in 1954 was 249, an increase of 3 on those registered in 1953.

Those classified as due to heart and circulatory diseases decreased slightly to a total of 97, from 109 in 1953, and 113 in 1952.

Deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system dropped from 39 in 1953, to 32, in 1954.

Those registered as from malignant neoplasm, (all sites) increased by 6 to a total of 44, in 1954, from 38, in 1953.

The increase was mainly in those classified as 'of all other sites', the number of deaths due to malignant neoplasm of the lung, stomach, breast and uterus were similar in both years.

Twenty-five deaths from respiratory diseases (other than tuberculosis) were registered during the year, ten of these were hospital deaths. There was little difference in the number of deaths under this classification in the two years.

One death from 'Influenza' was recorded in 1954, none in 1953.

In 1953, no death from ulcer of the stomach, duodenum, was registered but in 1954, three deaths occurred from this cause.

The three deaths from syphilis were all hospital cases, as were two of the three deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases.

There were 12 deaths due to accident other than motor vehicle accident. Four occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital, three due to Pneumonia following fracture and fall, and one from burns.

Of the other 8 accidents, 5 were due to fractures following falls, one to a pit accident, one death was due to accidental coal gas poisoning and one to burns caused by clothing catching fire.

The number of fatal accidents was unusually high in 1954, and compares unfavourably with the figures for previous years, namely 3, in 1953 and 1, in 1952.

Four cases of suicide were registered during the year, one case being at the St. Nicholas Hospital.

Two deaths from a 'motor vehicle accident' occurred compared with one death classified under this heading in 1953. One was of a young boy of 3 years in collision with a bus and the other of a young adult in a motor cycle accident.

II. TUBERCULOSIS.

The mortality rate from all forms of the disease decreased to 0.16 per 1,000 population in 1954 from 0.24 per 1,000 population in 1953.

The mortality rate for tuberculosis (all forms) for England and Wales in 1954, was 0.179 per 1,000 population.

Three deaths (2 male and 1 female) from the pulmonary form of the disease were registered during the year, compared with 6 deaths in 1953, 3, in 1952 and 5, in 1951. No death from this cause occurred at the hospital.

There was one death from the Non-pulmonary form of the disease. In 1953, no death occurred under this classification, one occurred in 1952, and 2, in 1951.

This decline in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) from 6, in 1953, to 4, in 1954, is consistent with the general trend throughout the country.

There was a rise in incidence of the disease during the year, 25 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 17 cases inwardly transferred to the district. During the previous year, 19 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and 9 inwardly transferred. In 1954, therefore there was a rise in incidence of 6 new cases and of 8 inward transfers.

The 25 primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1954 consisted of 17 male and 8 female cases. In 1953, the notifications of this disease were 7 male and 12 female cases, a total of 19.

Comparing the two years, there is an increase of 10 male notifications and a decrease of 4 in the female notifications. The increase in male notifications was chiefly in the age group, 45 to 55 years, from 2, in 1953 to 6, in 1954. In females, the 15 to 20 years age group showed 5 notifications compared with 2 in 1953 and no notification over the age of 35, whereas in 1953, there were 3.

This points to earlier diagnosis and indeed the rise in incidence of pulmonary tubercle may in some part be due to earlier and better methods of diagnosis and the closer surveillance of contacts.

The incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis showed a marked fall to 4 cases, (2 male and 2 female) notified in 1954, from 12 cases, (6 male and 6 female) in 1953.

A larger number of inward transfers, 17 in all (10 male and 7 female), all cases of the pulmonary form of the disease, came into the District during the year compared with 9 (4 male and 5 female) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 (1 male and 1 female) cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, during the previous year.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the district in 1954. The Unit which is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, I understand finds concentrating on industrial and selected groups of people rather more productive of case-finding than public sessions.

Members of the general public can attend the Unit at the General Hospital, Newcastle.

III. GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

During 1954, the total number of infectious diseases notified was 280, compared with 500 cases notified in 1953, and 497, in 1952.

This was a considerable decrease which took place in all the notifiable diseases with the exception of Whooping Cough, the incidence of which rose to 130 cases in 1954, from 50, in 1953, and two cases of Poliomyelitis and two of Food Poisoning in 1954, compared with no notification of these two diseases in 1953.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever progressed still further in its steady decline to 13 cases in 1954, whereas in the two previous years, 34 and 50 cases, respectively, had been notified. The cases during the year were of a very mild type.

Notifications of Whooping Cough rose to 130 during the year from 50, in 1953, and 72, in 1952. Several cases had severe attacks and there was one death of a baby, 2 months old, with Whooping Cough as a contributory cause.

Prophylaxis against Whooping Cough is not as yet done on a similar basis to diphtheria immunisation but at the Clinic or by the general practitioners, at the parents request.

The number of children who have received prophylactic injections in the district is gradually increasing. In 1954, 62 children received this protection whereas in 1953, 23 children, and in 1952, 11 children, received these injections.

The number of notifications of Measles showed a sharp fall in 1954 to 90 cases notified, from 227, in 1953 and 331, in 1952.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1954 as in 1953. There was one notification in 1952.

Dysentery also showed a very welcome drop to 21 cases notified (13 of which were patients at the St. Nicholas Hospital), from 155 in 1953, when an outbreak occurred during the last quarter of that year.

Notifications of Pneumonia declined to 15 during the year from 21, the previous year.

Food Poisoning. Two cases of Food Poisoning were notified, one in the third and the other in the fourth quarter of the year.

The causative agent was identified in both cases. In the first case, *Clostridium Welchii*, in the second, *Salmonella typhimurium* were isolated. The cases occurred after long journeys and meals en route, and it was found possible to trace the source of infection.

The patient suffering from food poisoning due to *Salmonella typhimurium* was ill for some weeks, but cleared after a month. The patient appeared to have contracted the illness while on holiday.

There was no positive contacts found in either family, and no further cases occurred.

Undulant Fever. Again one case of Undulant Fever occurred during the year as in the previous year. The patient was a young Norwegian of 20 years, who had been nine months in this country. He was admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Walkergate.

Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute Polio-encephalitis. During 1954, 2 cases were notified under this heading. There was no case in 1953.

In July, a case of Poliomyelitis, a girl of 6 years, and an inmate of a hospital in the district, was notified. She had been an inpatient of the hospital for two years.

Precautionary measures were advised and visiting to the ward stopped for a short period.

Fortunately, the child had been isolated at the beginning of the illness.

Contacts, 27 in number, including nursing staff and children were kept under surveillance for the necessary period.

The patient was removed to the Walkergate Hospital and made a good recovery though there was slight residual paralysis in one leg.

The second case which occurred in October, was unfortunately a fatal one. The patient a boy of 5 years, was admitted to hospital with suspected meningitis 24 hours earlier.

The histological report, following a post mortem, revealed the cause of death as polio-encephalitis.

The parents were interviewed from an epidemiological point of view. An interesting point elicited was that a family friend, who was also a contact, had died from poliomyelitis abroad shortly afterwards.

In November, a case of poliomyelitis occurred in a boy of 8 years, whose home was in a district some 20 miles away but who was a weekly boarder at a combined boarding and day school in this district.

The illness was of a mild abortive type and the child made a complete recovery.

School contacts, 33 altogether, were kept under surveillance for the requisite period.

IV. HOUSING.

The number of applications for Council houses was 850 at the end of 1954.

1,370 houses have been erected by the Council since 1944, 122 being completed during 1954.

Five cases of tuberculosis were rehoused in more suitable accommodation, of whom two cases already living in Council houses were transferred to larger ones.

On July 13th, an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held a public enquiry relating to a Clearance Area of 8 houses in flats in Ash Street and 5 houses in Chapel Street.

The Clearance Order was subsequently confirmed by the Minister.

It is gratifying that a start has already been made in the clearance of unfit houses although it is important to note that this district has relatively few.

Information in tabular form required under Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, is given in the detailed Housing Section of the report.

V. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead. No action was necessary under this Section.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Six cases were visited under this Section by the staff of the Health Department, 46 visits in all being paid during the year.

Application was made to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an extension of an Order made previously under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. The Order was granted, and the person, an elderly man, was detained for a further three months in Holmlands, North Shields.

No further formal action was necessary. The other cases were kept under supervision and home helps supplied in two cases.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

121 milk samples were taken at regular intervals during the year. Seventeen samples were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli, but none were positive.

An analysis of the results of the samples is given in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

VII. FOOD HYGIENE & HEALTH EDUCATION.

Regular visits were paid by the staff of the department to the 127 food shops in the district, and efforts made to bring the importance of food hygiene home both to the staffs of food premises and the general public.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Several lectures on hygiene were given during the year by members of the staff of the department to schools in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The details under this Section have been supplied by Mr. Stenger, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES BY OTHER AUTHORITIES.

(a) Regional Hospital Board. There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental diseases and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital.

(b) Northumberland County Council. Sections (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) and the care of the buildings in Section (2) are administered by the South Area Health Sub Committee.

(1) Home Nursing and Midwifery. There are three general nurses and two midwives resident in the district.

(2) Maternity and Child Welfare Service. Regular sessions are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Church Road, Gosforth, for babies, children and expectant mothers, for dental treatment and the treatment of eye defects and skin diseases, and for Ultra Violet Ray therapy.

In December, 1954, further extensions to the building were completed, rooms for ultra-violet light, orthopaedic clinic, a weighing room, doctor's consulting room and a dark room were provided.

(3) Ambulance Service. This service has a station at Wideopen which covers the Urban District of Gosforth and Longbenton (with the exception of West Allington), and the adjacent parts of the Castle Ward district and works in conjunction with the Newburn and ~~other~~ stations.

There are 15 driver attendants, one driver supervisor, 5 ambulances and one sitting car at the Wideopen Station.

On 3rd October, 1954, control of ambulances by radio became operative throughout the South Area. The ambulances at Wideopen were supplied with mobile sets and are in contact by radio with the Wideopen Depot.

During the year, the ambulances of the Wideopen Station made 4,681 journeys, carried 22,921 patients, including 2,778 stretcher cases and 881 accident and emergency cases and had a total mileage of 145,934 miles.

These totals show a slight decrease in the use of the service in 1954, compared with the previous year.

(4) Immunisation and Vaccination. At the 31st December, 91% of the total child population of the District had been immunised at some time during their lives, compared with 91% in 1953 and 90% in 1952.

There was a rise in the percentage of immunised children under 5 years to 80 in 1954 from 78.9 in 1953. The percentage of immunised children of from 5-15 years remained at 98 in both years.

In the course of the year 344 children received a primary course of immunisation (334 children under 5 years and 10, from 5-15 years); in addition 597 children received a reinforcing injection.

Immunity Index. This Index which shows the number of children in each age group immunised during the last 5 years, was introduced by the Ministry of Health in 1953. For the urban district, the figures for that year were, under 1 year 20%; 1-4 years 94%, 5-14 years 78%, giving a total of 78% of the child population (0-14 years) immunised during the last 5 years.

It is pleasing to report that for 1954, the Immunity Index has risen in the under one year age group and remained at a high level in the others.

The figures were 25% under 1 year, 94% 1-4 years; 80% 5-14 years, with the total of 80% of the child population (0-14 years) immunised during the last 5 years.

The main object of the campaign remains as before; to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday and to see that an adequate level of immunisation is maintained, for only then can this country hope to be rid of diphtheria altogether.

The aim of getting every child immunised before the first birthday is still the primary concern of doctors, health visitors, district nurses and other health workers in the field, who continue to try to achieve this by personal persuasion aided by a background of publicity.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis. During the year, a total of 62 children (18 under 1 year, 33, 1-4 years) and 11, (5-14 years) received prophylaxis with pertussis vaccine. In 1953, 34 children received prophylactic injections.

Vaccination against Smallpox. The number of vaccinations against smallpox dropped slightly in 1954 to a total of 159 primary vaccinations and 54 re-vaccinations from 164 primary vaccinations and 81 re-vaccinations in 1953.

The figures are still low and leave a good proportion of the population at risk should a case arise, which, with increased travel generally, especially air travel, is quite possible.

(5) Home Help Service. During 1954, 220 patients resident in the urban district were served with home helps for varying periods, an increase of 3 cases on the previous year when 217 patients were served.

The cases include 44, (54) of illness, 110 (94) aged and infirm people, 40, (36) confinements and ante and post natal cases, 8 (9)

cases of tuberculosis, 10 (10) cases following operation, accident or discharge from hospital, 6 (5) blind persons and 2, (2) problem cases.

Figures in brackets indicate the number of cases served in 1953. The number of aged and infirm people receiving the services of a home help accounted for half the service in the district as in 1953.

(6) Care and After-Care. Meetings of the Gosforth and Castle Ward After-Care Sub Committee were held at two-monthly intervals and aid to patients suffering from tuberculosis towards milk, clothing, travelling expenses of relatives to sanatoria, etc., were granted in suitable cases and an effort made to help in difficult circumstances.

(7) Nursing Care Committee. The Gosforth Nursing Care Committee which is composed of voluntary members, keeps a stock of nursing requisites at the Child Welfare Centre for use on loan to sick people in the district.

During 1954, 297 articles of nursing equipment were loaned for the use of sick persons at home.

I again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their sustained interest in the work of the department, to the Senior Sanitary Officer, particularly, and the staff of the Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year, and to the staffs of other departments of the Council for any information necessary in the compilation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

M. HOPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	1739
Registrar General's estimated population	24,540
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st March, 1954	7,726
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£986
Rateable value at 31st March, 1954.	£240,928

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total.
Live births (legitimate)	176	190	366
Live births (illegitimate)	2	2	4
Still births	6	2	8
Deaths	163	184	347
Birth rate per 1,000 population			15.3
Still birth rate per 1,000 population			0.33
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			13.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There was one maternal death.

Death rate of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	35.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	32.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	2.7

Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	46
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea (all ages)	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.(taken from the Registrar General's Return).

	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>	
All Causes	163	(43)	184	(55)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2		1	
Tuberculosis, other	1		-	
Syphilitic disease	3	(3)	-	
Diphtheria	-		-	
Whooping Cough	-		1	
Meningococcal infections	-		-	
Acute poliomyelitis	-		-	
Measles	-		-	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1		2	(2)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	(1)	5	(1)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	(2)	4	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-		2	(2)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-		2	
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	16	(1)	12	(1)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-		1	
Diabetes	1		1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	(3)	20	(2)
Coronary disease, angina	24		13	(5)
Hypertension with heart disease	6		7	
Other heart diseases	35	(22)	62	(32)
Other circulatory disease	3	(1)	3	
Influenza	0		1	
Pneumonia	10	(4)	6	(5)
Bronchitis	3		3	(1)
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	(1)	1	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1		2	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1		-	
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	(1)	4	(4)
Hyperplasia of prostate	1		-	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-		1	
Congenital malformations	-		4	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	(1)	16	(1)
Motor vehicle accidents	2		-	
All other accidents	5	(2)	7	(2)
Suicide	1	(1)	3	
Homicide and operations of war	1		-	

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS
(1935-1954) compared with rates of England and Wales.

Year	General Death Rate.		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate.	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1935	9.8	12.1	73.5	57	11.4	15.3
1936	10.6	12.1	76.9	59	12.7	15.4
1937	11.4	12.4	42.9	58	12.9	15.5
1938	11.0	11.6	32.4	53	13.6	15.7
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.2	14.3	64.4	55	13.6	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.4	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5
1952	9.2	11.3	24.9	27.6	14.6	15.3
1953	14.1	11.4	16.1	26.8	14.4	15.5
1954	13.5	11.3	35.1	25.5	15.3	15.2

INFANT MORTALITY.

Inattention at birth	-
Anoxia	5 minutes
Anencephaly	30 minutes
Cerebral haemorrhage	4 hours
Prematurity	15 hours
Coma, Intra cranial haemorrhage, birth injury.	1 day
Congenital abnormality (Spina bifida and hydrocephalus)	3 days
Tracheo oesophageal fistula	3 weeks
Septicaemia, prematurity.	7 weeks
Bronchitis	2 months
Broncho pneumonia, congestive heart failure	2 months
Convulsions, myocardial sclerosis	5 months
Convulsions, Whooping Cough	2 months.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS ANDOTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 17 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	8	25	33
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	-	18	18
Specimens of Faeces for pathogenic organisms	5	63	68
Specimens of urine for organisms	8	8	16
Throat swabs for Vincents Angina	3	5	8
Specimen of pus	-	1	1
Throat swabs for Staphylococci (coagulase positive)	2	1	3
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	-	7	7
Specimens of blood for agglutination	2	1	3
	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 157 <hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of Cases notified in the Urban District during 1954, set out in age groups.

	At all ages.										65 & over
	Under 1 yr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	
Scarlet Fever	13	-	-	1	-	8	3	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	130	8	11	18	16	20	56	1	-	-	-
Measles	90	1	13	8	14	10	42	1	-	1	-
Enteric-Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	21	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	8	6	3
Pneumonia	15	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	7	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
280	9	25	28	30	32	109	5	4	13	16	9

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1954.

Outbreaks due to identified agents :-

Total outbreaks ... Nil Total cases ... Nil.

Outbreaks due to :-

(a)	Chemical poisons	Nil
(b)	Salmonella	Nil
(c)	Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d)	Cl. botulinum	Nil
(e)	Other bacteria	Nil

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :-

Total outbreaks ... Nil Total cases ... Nil.

Single Cases - Agent identified

(a)	Cl. Welchii	-	1 case
(b)	Salm. Typhi-murium	-	1 case.

TABLE OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS & DEATHS.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Diphtheria</u>	<u>No. of Deaths.</u>
1935	54	1
1936	39	-
1937	25	-
1938	27	2
1939	23	1
1940	8	1
1941	9	-
1942	10	1
1943	5	1
1944	12	1
1945	15	-
1946	5	-
1947	3	-
1948	3	-
1949	-	-
1950	1	1
1951	-	-
1952	1	-
1953	-	-
1954	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory Male	Female	Non-respiratory Male	Female.	Respiratory Male	Female	Non-respiratory Male	Female.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 "	1+(2 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-20 "	3	5+(1 I.T)	1	-	-	-	-	-
20-25 "	1+(2 I.T)	-(2 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 "	2+(5 I.T)	3+(3 I.T)	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-45 "	3	-(1 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 "	6+(1 I.T)	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
55-65 "	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	17+(10 I.T)	8+(7 I.T)	2	2	2	1	1	-

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

New cases on the Register
(including inward transfers)

Deaths.

No. on register at end of yr.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary							
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.					
1941	11	2	13	1	4	5	5	8	1	2	3	31	25	57	12	13	25
1942	12	8	20	3	2	5	2	5	1	-	1	41	32	73	14	14	28
1943	10	6	16	1	8	9	9	14	-	1	1	45	38	83	14	21	35
1944	17	18	35	-	5	5	5	8	1	1	2	47	37	84	9	17	26
1945	17	10	27	3	6	9	6	10	-	1	1	51	39	90	10	22	32
1946	14	8	22	2	4	6	3	9	1	1	2	57	38	95	11	24	35
1947	11	7	18	1	4	5	5	10	1	1	2	52	36	88	10	24	34
1948	12	13	25	5	4	9	8	16	1	-	-	40	30	70	5	14	19
1949	22	17	39	2	1	3	4	7	-	1	1	55	38	93	6	14	20
1950	16	11	27	2	3	5	9	12	-	1	3	59	45	104	7	17	24
1951	22	9	31	2	2	4	4	5	2	1	3	74	47	121	9	14	23
1952	17	17	34	1	6	7	2	3	-	-	-	83	61	144	10	17	27
1953	11	17	26	7	7	14	9	10	-	-	-	82	72	154	13	23	36
1954	27	15	42	2	2	4	2	3	1	-	1	104	77	181	13	23	36

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1954.

Quarter ended	No. of cases on register at commencement of Quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time.		No. of cases removed from register.		No. of cases remaining.	
	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.
31st March, 1954.	Males 82 Females 72	13 23	7 2	- -	1 2	1 1	88 72	12 22
30th June, 1954	Males 88 Females 72	12 22	13 4	1 1	4 7	1 -	97 69	12 23
30th Sept. 1954	Males 97 Females 69	12 23	7 4	- 1	2 -	- 1	102 73	12 23
31st Dec. 1954.	Males 102 Females 73	12 23	2 4	1 -	- -	- -	104 77	13 23

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. There are no common standpipes in the district, and apart from a few dwelling-houses among the older type of properties, all dwelling-houses in the district have an internal water supply.

I am again indebted to the Engineer of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for supplying the following information relating to the bacteriological and chemical analyses of samples of water taken throughout the Company's area during the year under review.

Bacteriological Analysis.

Bacteriological analyses were made on 970 samples of filtered water and 99.8% were found to be free of Bact. Coli (type 1) per 100 ml. A further 350 samples taken from various parts of the area served by the Undertaking were very satisfactory and 98.6% were placed in the "Highly Satisfactory" classification.

Chemical Analysis.

Bi-monthly chemical analyses carried out by a firm of Consulting Chemists on samples drawn from consumers' taps proved that the high standard of the purity of water supplied by the Undertaking is being maintained.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING.

The number of visits made in connection with the supervision of the lay-out of new drainage work, and in connection with the repair and reconstruction of existing drains continue to increase, and again I have to report a good deal of activity in this particular field.

Constant demands were again made upon the drain cleansing service executed by the Department. This service, which would appear to be highly appreciated by the residents, has numerous advantages, but of extreme importance, is the fact that choked drains are promptly and efficiently dealt with.

Number of visits made	507
Number of water tests applied	175
Number of smoke tests applied	38
New drainage constructed	2504 yards.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse Collection.

Once again I am happy to report that during the year the collection of refuse proceeded smoothly throughout the district. The odd complaint was received in the Department alleging delay in the service, but these complaints, sparse as they are, are really without foundation. It is inevitable that slight delays do occur in periods following public holidays or during severe weather conditions. Naturally there is a remedy to the situation i.e. the employment of additional workmen or working longer hours. The utilisation of either method however, would inevitably result in additional expenditure, with an increased rate charge on the service.

In addition to the normal weekly collection of refuse from all premises, certain food premises, i.e. meat purveyors, bakehouses, fishmongers, fruiterers, etc., received a bi-weekly collection.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. George Oliver and all workmen in the Health Department for the very commendable way in which they have carried out their duties.

Refuse Disposal.

The Benton Tip, situated in the Urban District of Longbenton continued to be the main point for the disposal of refuse, where, approximately 10,000 tons of refuse from this district were disposed of. The expenditure incurred in the controlled tipping operation is borne equally by the Longbenton Urban District Council and by this Authority.

SALVAGE COLLECTION.

The tonnage of waste paper forwarded to the mills during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1955, was 284 tons, an increase of 21 tons over the previous year. This figure represents 0.96 tons per 1000 of population per month and just fails to reach the minimum figure, which I think the district is capable of i.e. 1 ton per 1000 population per month.

I must, however, applaud the residents of Gosforth for their very worthy efforts, and at the same time be a little critical of those residents who still persist in throwing into the dustbin, good clean waste paper.

COST STATEMENT 1954-55.

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
		£	£	£	%
	REVENUE ACCOUNT (note (a))				
1.	GROSS EXPENDITURE:-				
	(i) Labour (note (b))	7090	1076	8166	60
	(ii) Transport (note (c))	3264	921	4185	31
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings (note (d))	137	240	377	3
	(iv) Other items (note (e))	-	798	798	6
	(v) Total gross expenditure	10491	3035	13526	100
2.	GROSS INCOME (including £.... received from other local authorities (note (f))	50	2016	2066	-
3.	NET COST	10441	1019	11460	-
4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) (note (g))	-	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u> (note (h))	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only	13 10	2 1	15 11	
6.	Gross cost per ton, transport only	6 4	1 10	8 2	
7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	20 4	11	21 3	
8.	Net cost per 1,000 population	£. 425	£. 42	£. 467	
9.	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1256	123	1379	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10.	Area (statute acres) - land and inland water	1739 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1954 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	24540 persons
12.	Total refuse collected (tons). Indicate whether A, E or T (note(j))	10272 (T) tons
13.	Weight (cwts) per 1000 population per day (365 days to year)	22.9 cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	8313 premises
15.	Premises from which daily collection is made	Nil % of total
16.	Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including --- miles by secondary transport)	4 miles
17.	Kerbside collection, if practised, expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	Nil %
18.	Total refuse disposed of (of which - tons) were disposed for other local authorities)	10272 tons
19.	Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):	
	(a) Crude tipping	Nil %
	(b) Controlled tipping	100 %
	(c) Direct incineration	Nil %
	(d) Separation and incineration	Nil %
	(e) Other methods (state nature).....	Nil %
		<hr/> 100 % <hr/>

20. Salvage and Trade Refuse. Analysis of income and tonnage:

	Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 2)
	<hr/> £.	<hr/> Tons
Salvage:		
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste (note (a))	54	14
(b) Scrap Metal	18	4
(c) Waste Paper	1944	284
(d) Other Salvage	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
(e) Totals	£2016	302
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(NOTES - COST STATEMENT)

- (a) Comprising the expenditure directly attributable to the service, including sums paid to other local authorities. Excluding all expenditure and income arising from the operation of kitchen waste processing plant but including expenditure on normal collection of raw kitchen waste and (against Item 2 and 20 (a))an appropriate amount of income corresponding to its sale.
- (b) "Labour" means all employees other than clerical staff, drivers and mechanics. Expenditure includes holiday and sick pay, bonus payments, all superannuation charges, employer's contributions to national insurance and the cost of protective clothing and uniforms.
- (c) Transport means all types of vehicles and expenditure includes running and maintenance costs, wages of drivers and mechanics and other revenue expenses (including loan charges.)
- (d) Including running costs, maintenance expenses, loan charges and all sums charged to revenue account in respect of the provision or renewal of buildings, plant, dustbins etc. Costs of war damage repairs should be excluded.

HOUSING.

Toward the end of the year a survey of dwelling-houses in Dunn Street, South Street and Chapel Street, all situated in the Foxlodge district was carried out. These properties comprising forty 2-storey terraced houses, are occupied by eighty-one adults, and seven children under ten years of age.

A report on these dwelling-houses was submitted to the Health Committee, and at the end of the year the matter was still under consideration.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

This Act which came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, facilitates the exercise of the Council's statutory responsibilities for the clearance and replacement of slum houses, the enforcement of essential repairs, and the encouragement of improvements and conversion.

Section 1 of the Act requires every local authority to submit for the Minister's approval before the 31st August, 1955, proposals for dealing in one way or another with the houses within the district of the authority, which appear to be unfit for human habitation.

The proposals should include not more than an estimate of the total number of unfit houses in the district; the period needed to secure the demolition of all those houses, and a programme of action in relation to those houses during the next five years.

There are patches of unfit property in the district which must be vigorously dealt with if improvement is desired, and into this particular group I would place approximately one hundred and twenty houses as requiring first consideration in any proposals relating to the clearance of unfit dwelling-houses.

There are many old and sub-standard houses in the district presenting border-line characteristics. These properties numbering approximately two hundred and fifty, are somewhat better than those referred to above, and offer a more difficult problem.

In addition to the properties already mentioned there are approximately eight hundred houses which are mostly of fairly old construction and possess few modern amenities. Such properties are likely to be progressively 'dated' by modern developments in housing, and I feel that some consideration should be given to bring them up, in due course, to more modern standards.

Section 26 (application for Certificate of Disrepair).

Ten applications for certificates of disrepair were received in the Department, and of these one was granted, the remainder were still under consideration at the end of the year.

Tabular Statement.

Houses erected during the year:-

(a) by Local Authority	122
(b) by Private persons	52
(1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	243
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	216
(3) The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or	27
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	Nil

(4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	27
(5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	27
(6) The number of demolition or clearance orders made	Nil
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil
(8) The number of houses demolished	Nil

RODENT INFESTATION.

The number of complaints received in this connection showed a sharp decrease upon the previous year. Seventy complaints being received during the year under review as against ninety-three during the previous year. Following investigation and test-baiting it was found that in thirty-eight cases the infestations were due to mice, and in twenty-eight cases were due to rats. All infestations were found to be minor in character.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1955, details of which are set out below.

The cost incurred in these treatments amounted to £25, 50s of which will rank for reimbursement from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Treatment No.	No. of Man-holes baited.	Poison Bales.	
		Partial .	Complete.
1	128	11	-
2	131	6	-

The rodenticide Warfarin with a bait-base of oatmeal was again extensively used in connection with surface infestations, while zinc phosphide, with a bait-base of sausage rush was principally used in the treatment of sewers.

Both rodenticides gave satisfactory results.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The number of premises dealt with as coming strictly under this heading were relatively few. In sharp contrast, however, the number of enquiries for advice and/or treatment regarding garden insects etc., was increased.

The insecticide D.D.T. both in liquid and powder form, the latter containing a minimum of 0.1 of pyrethrins, was used to good effect. No serious infestation was encountered, which again was largely confined to the eradication of the cockroach.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

There are one hundred and six registered factories in the district, seventy-five mechanical factories and twenty-one non-mechanical factories, and ten other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the authority.

The following table gives in detail the number of visits and notices served to remedy defects found in course of inspection of the various factories in the district.

Factories.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	Notices Served.
Mechanical	75	125	10
Non-Mechanical	21	43	1
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	10	30	-
	106	198	11

Particulars.	Defects found.	Defects remedied.	Referred by M.V. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-			
(a) Insufficient	2	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	7	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
(d) Other offences	-	-	-
	11	7	1

INSPECTOR OF FOOD AND FOOD PREPARERS.

Milk Supply.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1953, came into operation on the 2nd December, 1953. Under this Order all milk sold by retail within the urban district of Gosforth must be 'specially designated' milk (i.e. 'pasteurised', 'sterilised', 'tuberculin tested' milk or until 30th September, 1954, 'Accredited' milk from a single herd).

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail 'Tuberculin Tested' milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail 'Tuberculin Tested' milk:	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail 'Pasteurised' milk:	6
Number of dealers licences issued to retail 'Tuberculin Tested' (Pasteurised)milk.	4
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail 'Tuberculin Tested' (Pasteurised)milk.	9
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail 'Pasteurised' milk	12
Number of dealers licences issued to retail 'Sterilised' milk:	23
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail 'Sterilised' milk	2

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons registered as Distributors of milk	...	...	29
Number of premises registered as Dairies	...	...	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

GRADE.	B. Tuberculosis			Methylene Blue			Phosphatase/Turbidity Test.			
	Negative	Positive	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	Satisfactory.
Accredited Tuberculin Tested Tuberculin Tested (War-bottled) Pasteurised Sterilised "T.M." Pasteurised	3	-	3	11	2	13	87.5	-	-	-
	3	-	3	11	3	14	78.6	-	-	-
	11	-	11	29	5	34	85.3	-	-	-
	-	-	-	47	-	47	100.0	-	47	100.0
	-	-	-	6	-	6	100.0	6	6	100.0
	-	-	-	4	-	4	100.0	-	-	-
Totals	17	-	17	111	10	121	91.7	-	-	-

The overall picture of these results portrays a great improvement upon the previous year's results. In 1953 the percentage of Tuberculin Tested (farmed bottles) milks satisfying the Methylene Blue keeping quality test was 70; this year, as shown by the report this figure has been increased to 95.

Another source of satisfaction is that of seventeen samples of milk submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli, all were found to be negative.

Samples of Ice-Cream.

During the year twenty-seven samples of ice-cream, twenty pre-wrapped and seven 'loose' were procured and submitted to the Methylene Blue test.

The results of the examination of these samples of ice-cream together with their respective provisional grading are shown as follows:-

<u>Type of Sample.</u>		<u>Time taken to</u>	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>% of</u>
<u>Prewrapped</u>	<u>Loose.</u>	<u>Reduce Methylene Blue</u>	<u>Grade.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
17	4	4½ hours or more	1	77.8
1	1	2½ hours - 4 hours	2	7.4
2	1	½ hour - 2 hours	3	11.1
-	1	0 hours.	4	3.7

All ice-cream retailed within the district is manufactured outside the district and close contact is maintained with those authorities within whose district the ice-cream is manufactured.

In considering these results I think it would be useful to reiterate the observations made by the sub-committee appointed to enquire into tests for the bacteriological grading of ice-cream.

"Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice-cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1; 80% into Grades 1 and 2; not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4".

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 57).

The Slaughter-houses Act, 1954.

Two applications were received in connection with the renewal of private slaughter-house licences, one application only was granted. Consideration of the second application was deferred in view of the present use of the premises as a dairy.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-48.

The slaughter of food animals to meet the requirements of meat purveyors in the district is largely carried out in abattoirs situated outside the district.

There is only one slaughter-house within the district, and that is situated at the rear of 160 High Street, and occupied by Messrs. T. N. Arkle & Son.

Details of animals slaughtered and inspection of carcasses are shown in the following table:-

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excl. cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	78	Nil	6	483	11
Number inspected	78	Nil	6	483	11
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcass condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note - the eleven pigs referred to in the table on the preceding page were slaughtered at the St. Nicholas Hospital and were for consumption on the premises only.

Food Premises.

The number and type of food premises in the district is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises.	No.	Type of Premises.	No.
Grocers	30	Retail Bakeries	7
General Dealers	27	Bakeries	4
Licensed Premises	21	Fishmongers & Poulterers	5
Meat Purveyors	20	Cafes	4
Fruiterers	17	Fried Fish and Chips	3
Confectioners	10		

Food premises throughout the district, including vehicles used for the transport and/or sale of food were regularly visited. Arising out of these visits, forty-one informal notices were served in connection with the infringement of the requirements of Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. No formal action was found necessary although in one instance the notice had not been complied with and at the end of the year, the matter was still under consideration.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the food by-laws operating in the district. Out of a total of one hundred and forty-eight food premises in the district, one hundred and thirty-eight have a constant supply of hot water provided.

Registration of Food Premises.

(Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938.)

The number and type of food premises in the district registered under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938 is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises.	No. Regd.	Type of Premises.	No. Regd.
General Dealers	26	Bakeries	4
Confectioners	11	Retail Bakeries	4
Meat Purveyors	10	Fruiterers	2
Fishmongers	6	Cafe	1
Grocers	5		

Forty-seven premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and twenty-two premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale. There are no premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Sale, etc., of Unsound Food.
(Section 2, Food & Drugs Act, 1938.)

It was not found necessary to take any action in this particular connection.

Unsound Food (Voluntarily Surrendered).

The following articles of food weighing 881 pounds were examined following their voluntary surrender and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

112 lbs. English Beef	33 Tins Peas/Beans
102 lbs. Imported Beef	22 " Milk
43 lbs. Pork Sausage	6 " Spaghetti
16 lbs. Pork	5 " Liquid Egg
10 lbs. Bacon	3 " Soup
157 Tins Fruit	2 " Pickled Cabbage
74 Pkts. Processed Cheese	2 " Macaroni.
50 Tins Meat	

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Following the practice of previous years all condemned meat was forwarded to a local firm for processing into animal feeding meal, fertilisers, glues etc., prior to which it was suitably stained. All other types of food not suitable for processing were destroyed in the incinerator situated in the Council yard.

Adulteration of Food.

Mr. Arkidge, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures Department, Northumberland County Council has once again kindly supplied me with details of the work of his sampling officers in the urban district of Gosforth.

Out of a total of one hundred and thirty-one samples procured, three were found to be unsatisfactory. All three unsatisfactory samples were samples of pork sausage, and in two cases they were found to be 12% deficient in meat, and in the third case, found to contain an undeclared preservative. In all three cases a caution was issued.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The following tables present a summary of visits made by your Sanitary Officers, and sanitary improvements effected during the year.

TABLE 1.

Dwelling Houses	2056
Cinemas and Dance Halls	19
Ditches and Streams	25
Drainage Systems	507
Drain Test:-	
Smoke	38
Water	175
Factories (Mechanical)	125
(Non-Mechanical)	43
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	115
" Disinfections	34
" Revisits	127
National Assistance Act	46
Rodent Infestation:-	
Rats	225
Mice	203
Refuse Collection - Supervision	203
Schools re Sanitation	49
Shops Act	145
Tents, Vans and Sheds	7
Food Premises	640
Verminous Premises:-	
Inspected	24
Treated	33
Re-inspected	24
Miscellaneous	385
	<hr/>
	5248

TABLE 11.

Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	7
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	2
Damp-proof course inserted	1
Dangerous walls repaired	1
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	5
Eaves-gutters cleaned-out, rep'd or ren'd	25
External walls pointed	7
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	11
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	7
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	9
Roofs repaired	21

c/f 96

	b/f	96
Sashcords renewed		10
Sink draining boards renewed/repared		1
Sinks (new) provided and fixed		2
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed		7
Skirting boards repaired or renewed		2
Walls rendered internally		29
Wallplaster repaired or renewed		2
Water supplies repaired or renewed		6
Windows repaired, made to open		2
Yards and passages paved and drained		1
Yard paving repaired		1
Choked drains cleansed		11
Dustbins provided		228
W.C. basins renewed		4
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed		10
W.C. structures repaired or renewed		3
		<hr/>
		415
		<hr/>

CONCLUSION.

In concluding my report I would like to thank the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee, and other members of the Council, for the help and support given to me during the year.

I am indeed grateful to Dr. Hopper, Medical Officer of Health, for her kindly advice, and to all other Chief Officials for their advice and co-operation on the many and varied matters arising throughout the year.

Once again it is my pleasure to record my sincere appreciation of the hard and conscientious work carried out by Mr. Oxley and by the clerical staff. They have performed the various duties assigned to them in a very efficient and highly satisfactory manner.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE STINGER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

